JAN. 17-18, 2008

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **January 17 and 18**. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

President's Report

President Sean Noah reported on his activities since the November Executive meeting. He attended several ceremonies for Remembrance Day, brought greetings to a session for prospective French teachers, which was sponsored by the Modern Languages Council, as well as brought greetings to the Waterford Valley Branch retirement dinner, the NL School for the Deaf Christmas Concert and the December Conference of the NL Association of Directors of Education. He attended numerous other meetings and events in his capacity as President. He was active in the media on bullying, health and wellness promotion, math curriculum, the Commission Reports, upcoming negotiations, and other education issues. He also visited several schools in the St. John's/Mount Pearl area and during his out of town visits in Avalon West and Central Newfoundland.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President.

Association Priorities

The Association priorities were reviewed by Provincial Executive. Administrative staff reviewed various elements of the document including goals, responsibilities, indication of progress/success and updates. The Association priorities for 2007-09 are: quality of teacher work life/teacher workload; contract negotiations; teacher professional development; membership involvement/awareness; and Teacher Allocation and ISSP/Pathways Commission reports.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

ISSP/Pathways Commission Report

Provincial Executive reviewed the ISSP/Pathways Commission Report as well as a draft response from the NLTA to the Report. A recommendation-by-recommendation analysis of the Commission Report was prepared by Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director and George Tucker, Administrative Officer in the Professional Development Division, for the review of Provincial Executive. The analysis was based on the NLTA's original input to the Commission. Feedback and comments from Provincial Executive will be incorporated into the final document as the formal response to the ISSP/Pathways Commission Report.

A timed session took place with Dr. Marian Fushell, Assistant Deputy Minister (Primary, Elementary and Secondary Education), and Dr. Darin King, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education, from the Department of Education. Provincial Executive had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback and comments on the Commission Report, and other topics.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Collective Bargaining

Provincial Executive reviewed the collective bargaining strategy and discussed the status of the current round of bargaining. There was feedback from the last Joint Council meeting on this round of bargaining and Provincial Executive took this into consideration during its discussions.

The 2008 Negotiating Team consists of: Lily Cole, Chairperson, Pearce Junior High, Burin Bay Arm; Dean Ingram, Swift Current Academy, Swift Current; Ethel Park, Paradise Elementary, St. John's; Jolene Anderson, Random Island Academy, Clarenville; Roland Parrill, Western District Office, Lower Cove; Ken Hayward, St. Catherine's Academy, Mount Carmel; Linda Williams, Eastern District Office, St. John's; Diane Curtis, Main River Academy, Pollard's Point; Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director (Chief Negotiator); and Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

A *President's Digest* providing an update on the status of contract negotiations will be provided to all schools in the next few days.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Business of Standing Committees

Table Officers

- An amount of $3,000 was approved as a contribution to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union HIV/AIDS Awareness Project. The contribution will come from the Public Relations line in the Governance and Administration budget.

(cont'd)

- The Executive meeting schedule for 2008-09 was accepted. The schedule is as follows: September 19-20; November 20, followed by Joint Council on November 21-22; February 25-26, followed by Joint Council on February 27-28; April 14, following by BGM on April 14-16; and May 29-30.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Equity Issues in Education

- The Student Equity Grants Program will be discontinued at the end of the 2007-08 school year.
- Proposed amendments to the policy on Gender Equity in Education and in the Profession, and proposed amendments to the policy on French Programming were accepted by Provincial Executive.

For further information contact Jackie Maloney, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Membership Benefits and Services

- Section a) iii) of the nomination procedures for the Bancroft Award and section a) ii) of the nomination procedures for the Allan Bishop Award will be amended by adding the following subsection: "The names and addresses of two individuals who would be able to provide references concerning the nomination. These could be the names of current or former officers of the branch or a branch member who is familiar with the nominee's achievements."
- Section VII – Duties and Powers of Executive of the model branch by-laws will be amended by rewording subsection (i) to read: "Hold a minimum of three Executive meetings per year."
- In accordance with the policy on Branch Viability Guidelines, the Membership Benefits and Services Committee will initiate a consultative process with the St. Mary's Bay Branch to determine the branch's continued viability.

For further information contact Tina Ryan, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Other Business

- Information will be obtained from school districts and the Department of Justice regarding the policy/requirements for certificates of conduct and an article regarding the issue will be prepared for publication in *The Bulletin*.

  For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.
- The proposed amendments to the policy on the Employee Assistance Program were accepted by Provincial Executive.

  For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.
- The NLTA will develop criteria to define communities in Newfoundland and Labrador that are experiencing problems with recruitment and retention of teachers for the purpose of working to obtain a recruitment/retention bonus.

  For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director or Perry Downey, Administrative Officer, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **April 3** in St. John's, followed by a Joint Council meeting on **April 4 and 5**.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.